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POLISH PARATROOPERS



JUSTICE WILL BE DONE

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT issued on October 25th, 1941, a statement declaring that:

"The practice of executing scores of innocent hostages in reprisal for isolated attacks on Germans in countries temporarily under the Nazi heel revolts a world already inured to suffering and brutality. Civilized peoples long ago adopted the basic principle that no man should be punished for the deed of another. . . . Unable to apprehend the persons involved in these attacks the Nazis characteristically slaughter 50 or 100 innocent persons. Those who would collaborate with Hitler or try to appease him cannot ignore this ghastly warning. . . . These are the acts of desperate men who know in their hearts that they cannot win. Frightfulness only sows the seeds of hatred, which will one day bring a fearful retribution."

THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. CHURCHILL, issued on the same day a statement that:

"The Government associate themselves fully with the sentiments of horror and condemnation expressed by the President of the United States upon the Nazi butcheries in France. These cold-blooded executions of innocent people will only recoil upon the savages who order and execute them. . . . The atrocities in Poland, in Yugoslavia, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and above all, behind the German fronts in Russia, surpass anything that has been known since the darkest and most bestial ages of mankind. They are but a foretaste of what Hitler would inflict upon the British and American peoples if only he could get the power. Retribution for these crimes must henceforward take its place among the major purposes of the war."

MR. EDEN, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on June 17th, replying in the House of Commons to Captain Graham, who asked about German acts against Poles, said:

"His Majesty's Government have received information regarding these and similar crimes and violations of international law committed by the German-occupying authorities in Poland. I am glad to have this opportunity to remind these authorities and also the Polish people, who are showing such tenacity and fortitude in their present trials, of the Prime Minister's statement on October 25th last that retribution for such crimes must henceforward take its place among the major purposes of the war."

POLISH AIRMEN IN MIDDLE EAST

London, Dec. —: A few days ago, Air Chief Marshal Sir Sholto Douglas attended a reception given in his honor by the Polish Air Force prior to his departure to take up his new post as Commander in Chief of the Royal Air Force in the Middle East. Numerous R.A.F. officers of the highest rank, with the new head of the Fighter Command, Air Marshal Leigh Mallory, were present. Inspector General of the Polish Air Force, General Ujejski, presented Air Marshal Sholto Douglas with Polish Pilot wings, and the badges of all the Polish Fighter Squadrons. In expressing his thanks Air Marshal Douglas said he hoped to have Polish airmen under his command in the Middle East.

One million Polish workers are now in Germany, according to an announcement by Nazi Governor Frank of occupied Poland reported today by Polish sources. Frank disclosed that 200,000 of this number were women.

POLISH WOMEN RETURN THANKS

Washington, Dec. —: The Women of Poland have sent a reply to the broadcasts of the American Women who, on July 30th, urged their Polish sisters to hold firm, that help was coming and that retribution would follow Victory.

When in Washington General Sikorski handed to Mrs. Roosevelt a message transmitted from a secret radio station in Poland during September and received in London. It read, in part:—

"We send you in the name of the Polish women sincere thanks for the imposing protest which you organized on the 30th of July against the German atrocities on the Polish women. . . . Beyond the pain that stabs us, beyond the despair and longing after the dead, we are dominated by the consciousness that the struggle which we are carrying on will decide the existence of freedom, and no one can remain out of it. We are prepared either to win or perish."

General Sikorski's Speech to Overseas Press Club in New York

GENERAL WLADYSLAW SIKORSKI, Polish Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, was the guest of the Overseas Press Club of America at a luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 16th. Speaking before an audience of more than 300 editors, correspondents, radio commentators and other well known authorities on International Affairs, General Sikorski said:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am most grateful for the opportunity afforded me by the Overseas Press Club of addressing so distinguished a press gathering on problems so closely affecting all the United Nations.

Speaking to people who have a deep knowledge of world problems and in particular of the problems of Europe, may I talk to you simply and sincerely as a soldier, as a soldier with a realistic outlook on international affairs.

On every hand I am asked strategic and political questions regarding present war issues. I suppose this is because I represent the Polish nation which, in 1939, was the first to oppose armed resistance to the German onslaught, which refused to surrender, and will continue to fight until final victory. Her geo-political location and consequent importance to peace, give Poland a key position.

My Government maintains uninterrupted contact with the Mother Country and the Polish Home Front. No obstacle or persecution has been able to prevent that. Questions have been put to me as Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, as the author of various books on modern warfare — for which the American army is today so perfectly trained and equipped — and, last but not least, as the initiator of the ideal of Confederation in Central and Eastern Europe.

Following the trend of these questions, I should like to give some of my views to this distinguished forum, — and I shall not avoid questions that might seem embarrassing. There are no indiscreet questions, only indiscreet answers.

The fortunes of war may still fluctuate. War demands the greatest unity of action not in the military sphere alone, war demands unity of allied purpose. But the final issue of the war is becoming ever clearer. We must therefore be prepared for peace, lest peace find us as unprepared as we were for war.

In the course of conversations I had in Washington — where I was honored to be the guest of President Roosevelt — I noted with the

utmost satisfaction that this essential unity of purpose and unity of action are fully realized and acted upon.

May I first try to size up the present war situation.

In the limits within which I may speak in public, I can say that in 1942 Germany failed to achieve the aims she had set herself. She succeeded neither in destroying the Russian army nor in bringing about the overthrow of the Soviets. She took neither Leningrad, nor Moscow, nor Stalingrad, nor the Caucasus. Winter finds the German forces once again on the vast open spaces of Russia. Their situation is the same as it was last winter, and even their winter equipment is no better than that of which Hitler so bitterly complained. It is not improbable that the situation of the German army will become even worse than it was last winter. The third "purge" of experienced German military leaders and their replacement in the most responsible posts by the henchmen of Himmler — the Hangman, — clearly point to the difficulties that confront Hitler in his desperate attempt to maintain at all costs his exclusive hold on the army. Such measures will not increase the cohesion of the German forces, but they do show that Hitler is doing his utmost to maintain his influence and his control of the military conduct of the war.

The valient Russian armies are taking advantage of their natural ally — General Winter, and they will I hope be able to force the German armies to retreat on some sectors of the front.

One should always avoid optimistic estimates of a situation, especially in times of success. We have to deal with an enemy admirably prepared and still possessing the indispensable reserves of manpower and war material. The natural resources controlled by Germany, the slave labor temporarily at her disposal in occupied countries, enable her to keep up an effective fight and to maintain a high level of war production.

But the war production of Great Britain and the Dominions, and especially the war production of the United States, already greatly exceeds that of the Axis Powers.

This production is steadily rising, as I have been able personally to observe, while German and Japanese war production has long ago reached its peak. In the realm of war production our victory is certain.

Germany has likewise failed to interrupt communications between the Continents. Neither German submarines in the Atlantic, nor

Rommel at Suez, nor yet Japan in the Pacific have succeeded in achieving this aim.

Now and now only, in the light of American losses at Pearl Harbor, can be appreciate the magnificent achievement of the American Navy in maintaining communications with Australia.

Germany also in the course of this year has lost her former momentum. The large scale thrusts she used to launch simultaneously in various directions, are a thing of the past. Her Luftwaffe is weakening and shows signs of fatigue. Next year this will become even more pronounced.

To sum up my views on the present war situation, I feel we are entitled to expect that Germany will pass to the defensive. In time Germany will be completely on the defensive and will hold in Europe as in a fortress if the Allied African offensive succeeds in forcing the enemy out of that continent. That this will not long be deferred is shown by the considerable success achieved by the British Eighth Army at El Agheila which has so brilliantly opened the second phase of its offensive against General Rommel's forces. The Germans entrenched in Europe will play for time, trying to persuade the Allies that further bloodshed is hopeless and that this war should be ended by a negotiated peace. The Germans will try to frighten the great Western Democracies by the threat of Bolshevism, appealing to them on behalf of our civilization that these arch-barbarians pretend they are defending.

In the name of the lofty ideals, of the high principles for which we are fighting, I appeal to you, the leaders of public opinion in this Great Republic to oppose such outbursts of Goebbels propaganda. A compromise peace with Germany would be equivalent to utter defeat. The enormous sacrifices of the fighting nations would have been in vain. At best such a peace would be another precarious and most dangerous armistice.

The African campaign brings me to another subject on which I am frequently questioned, that of the problems arising out of the present operation in North Africa and especially regarding the attitude of the Allies towards the French. In my opinion, the real problem can be summed up in the following question: Are political or strategic considerations the more important and decisive at the present stage of the African campaign?

I do not hesitate in answering that, under the circumstances and for the time being, politics cannot be allowed adversely to influence the

course of strategy, especially when dealing with an operation as important and as difficult as the Allied offensive in Africa. The decision of the Allied High Command in Africa was exclusively dictated by military requirements and is entirely justified by them. I would regard as most dangerous for the further development of the operations conducted by General Eisenhower, anything that would interfere with, or restrict the freedom of his operational moves. All the more so on account of Germany's decision to hold Tunis and Bizerte at all cost, and the advantage held by the Axis Powers as regards communications.

I have been asked how I would have acted in General Eisenhower's place. I reply that I should have acted exactly as he did.

But what about "Fighting France"?

We have no right to forget that at the time when the flag of France fell from the hands of her surrendering army, it was picked up and raised by General de Gaulle. His action was true to the highest ideals and traditions of France, — of that France without which a lasting Peace in Europe is unthinkable. General de Gaulle will forever remain the symbol of Fighting and Immortal France.

What under the circumstances is the future of "Fighting France"?

Here again political considerations should give way to the exigencies of war and ultimate victory. I firmly believe that all Frenchmen will realize the demand of the moment and will join in a policy uniting all their efforts for the time being outside their country, in the same way as we Poles have done, so as to fight in full harmony and unity with the single aim of saving their country.

The necessity of unity is true for us all. We must face facts. We must fully realize the nature of the enemy.

We are fighting an enemy who aims at the destruction of all of us. He aims at enslaving us. Poland has become the main testing ground for this modernized version of barbarism.

Just before leaving England I received the latest report on the situation in Poland. I had meant to read it to you, but on second thought I decided not to. Why? Frankly, because I know from experience that the most devoted friends of my country are apt to doubt the veracity of the terrible facts reported from the Hell of the Vistula and the Warta. You, free

people of the Western Hemisphere, are not capable or grasping and believing the depth to which the Germans have sunk. I will give you some of the facts from this report dated end of November.

Six and a half million Poles have been victims of the Germans. It means that every fifth man, woman or child in Poland has been either murdered, or driven from his home, taken to a concentration camp, tortured, or carried off to forced labor in Germany.

To help you visualize what this really means, I ask you to imagine that the entire population of Metropolitan New York has been murdered, deported and driven from their homes. What mass enslavement for forced labor means may best be realized in imagining that the entire populations of Chicago and Washington have been thus enslaved. If we transpose these figures in terms of America, this is the picture we get:

22 million Americans thrown out of their homes, deported and all their worldly belongings confiscated.

3,000 University and College professors murdered.

One million American men and women undergoing torture in concentration camps.

One and a half million American children dying yearly.

Such would be America under the heel of Germany. Such is the situation in Poland today.

To realize the extent of the monstrous massacre of Jews, you must imagine the whole of Manhattan closed in by ghetto walls behind which all the Jews of the Western Hemisphere have been imprisoned to be gradually and methodically exterminated in groups of several thousands daily by machine-gun fire, lethal gas or electrocution.

Regardless of this appalling state of things, underground Poland fights on. Newspapers are secretly printed and circulated four times daily and print the latest British and American radio bulletins. We do not boast of sabotage because the glory that such propaganda would bring us is not worth the victims it would inevitably entail in our country.

Let us consider the reaction of our population. I will read you the text of a protest secretly circulated in Poznan, Warsaw, Wilno and Lwow:

"The total number of Jews killed has reached one million, and this number is increasing daily. All perish: the rich and the poor, the infirm and old, the

women, the men, the youth and little children. Their only crime is that they were born into the Jewish people and are condemned to extermination by Hitler. Therefore we, Catholics and Poles, desire to speak. We do not want to be Pontius Pilates. We cannot actively counteract the German crimes, we cannot help anything, we cannot save anybody, but we protest from the bottom of our hearts, filled with compassion, indignation and horror."

On the day of victory the wall of the ghetto in Poland will fall. They will be destroyed by the Polish people. At the moment, however, means must be found to save the Polish Jews, victims of this bestial barbarism.

As regards the future European settlement. I should like to say that the natural instinct of self-preservation makes nations tend towards the establishment of international unity among freedom-loving peoples who, living peacefully side by side, are exposed to the threat of attack from their powerful neighbors. This tendency towards federation is especially strong among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The realization of this ideal, of which I am a fervent advocate, will safeguard not only the security of nations situated between Germany and Russia, who will thus form a kind of international family, but it will likewise be a natural rampart of protection for Soviet Russia, always so concerned about her Western security. Such a peaceful family of nations would not only be a factor of security, but also one of permanent European stability and economic development through the creation, over a vast area, of possibilities of large scale exchange. As the Representative of Poland, I feel I have the right to talk of Confederation, in view of the fact that five centuries ago, Poland had already established a successful Confederation of neighboring States. In this present war, Poland is not only fighting for her own freedom. True to her traditions, she is fighting for the realization of her oldest maxim: "The union of the free with the free, on a basis of mutual equality."

Regardless of overwhelming odds, Poland was the first to challenge brutal aggression. She will be the last to leave the field of battle.

FREE MEN AND FREE PEOPLE IN AN ORGANIZED WORLD*

By STANISLAW STRZETELSKI

ALL over the world today one hears people saying: "Things can't go on like this any longer. When the war is over, there must be a change. We will never get anywhere with an impotent League of Nations, countries forever embroiled in wars, and the fiction of economic self-sufficiency . . ."

And they are right. Such institutions are as well adapted for this period of totalitarianism and warring economic autocracies as are evening gowns for a polar expedition.

"The League," it is suggested, "should be given the power to enforce its dicta. It ought to have a powerful international police force at its disposal."

This suggestion sounds sensible. But to act on it would mean choosing the way of least resistance and half measures. Were the League to be equipped with the strongest possible police executive power, it would be at once both too much and too little.

The League in its present set-up is theoretically both a world government and an international court. The Geneva Institution boomeranged her over-ingenious creators, who planned the League to be an impartial court which would prevent war, and at the same time serve the political purposes of the Great Powers. It was inevitable that results in both roles would be disappointing. The experience of centuries has shown that judicial authority cannot be combined with executive power. No one today thinks seriously of establishing a super-state on a world scale. There remains, therefore, only the problem of an international court.

Any court, if it is to function adequately, must possess three characteristics: (1) Moral authority; (2) Impartial objectivity; (3) Strong executive power. The League of Nations did not have these even in a minimal degree.

Whatever moral authority it may have possessed in the beginning, was soon lost, discredited by its weakness and helplessness, its inability to carry out the purposes for which it was created. Within a few years after its establishment the Geneva Institution had brought the concept of an international court and international arbitration into derision. No one dreamed of looking to the League for impartiality and objectivity. Geneva became in the eyes of the world a synonym for falsity and opportunism. The greatest enemy of the ideals which the League of Nations represented could have devised no better means of discrediting it than by pointing to its own methods.

Add to this the fact that in the few instances in which the League was on the right track in her decisions she lacked the power to put them into effect (because sanctions had become no more than a nine-letter word, suitable for cross-word puzzles) and you get a picture of the whole.

Since it is our concern today to secure for the world some guarantee of lasting peace, we must say to ourselves: We do not propose to create a world super-state, and therefore we do not need a world super-government. All that is required to keep national and state egoisms in their place is an international court with high authority, impartial objectivity, and a strong police and executive power.

How is such a court to be constituted?

If we use the previous method of sending delegations from all member countries, we run the risk of making

the same mistakes all over again. On the other hand, it is difficult to devise an entirely different method because, of course, unless all countries were represented, the whole matter would be left up in the air.

There is perhaps a middle-course solution that will meet the situation, namely, to supplement purely national delegations with another factor representing only moral authority and impartiality. This would necessarily be a religious authority. The future international court is to guard the universal interests of a civilization founded on Roman law and Christian ethics. Hence it is only natural that the Christian churches should be represented. Representatives of social agencies might, to some extent, replace political representatives.

I am aware that one or perhaps both of these suggestions may meet with doubts and objections. But if once the principle is accepted, the working out of details will not prove insurmountable.

It is not my purpose to go into the matter of organization or questions of representation in the court of its constituent members, political, religious, social, scientific or legal. But I consider it axiomatic that any such edifice, founded on purely political lines, will prove disappointing.

There arises the question of the codification of international law. It is important to formulate certain basic ethical principles which arise from the nature of man and nations. There should be a "Declaration of the Rights of Nations." Such a "Bill of Rights of Human Society" would simplify and solve many legal problems in international life which today seem practically insoluble.

This is the real core of the problem. Matters of organization, details of the plan for our future international relations, will and should be subject to change and improvement. Such things will always be provisional to a certain degree. But one thing is fundamental: There must be a moral-political conception of the world, which has the strength of a positive dogma based on faith. Only faith can liberate these energies of creative enthusiasm, without which it is impossible for the new order to endure.

It is obvious that no court, however well organized, can be effective unless it is equipped with sufficiently strong executive power. From the very nature of things, national egoisms and the accompanying misunderstandings will always exist. For this reason any code of international law must be joined with a factor of physical force which, when necessary, will intervene on the side of right and justice.

The international court might be given control over monopoly of all armament production, air communications, and all rights to future technical discoveries and patents of a military nature.

We are not seeking to create a world super-state: on the contrary, we stand for the freest possible development of individuals and nations. We do not deceive ourselves with misplaced faith in the rule of "king-philosophers," who put their faith in the triumph of reason and persuasion over the instincts and passions. We cast away the thesis of mechanistic pacifism as impracticable and inadvisable since it leads inevitably to a world super-state with its accompanying restraint of freedom and initiative. We wish only to create effective guarantees of equilibrium.

There is no other way.

* A passage from "Where the Storm Broke," recently published by Roy Slavonic Publications, New York, N. Y.

INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH

WHAT AN ESCAPED GESTAPO PRISONER SAW!



AFTER I had been three months in prison a young lad of nineteen charged with sabotage was put in our cell. He was sentenced to die. Each morning we looked at the list of our names on the cell door. A cross was used to mark the name of anyone sentenced to death.

This boy was treated differently. A Gestapo man came in and read the sentence, "By order of the Special Tribunal for sabotage against the German nation, the Pole aged nineteen has been sentenced to be shot. The sentence will be carried out within 24 hours."

While the sentence was being read we stood at attention. The Gestapo men went out without even their usual jokes. We all stood without stirring. After a moment the youngster ran to me and asked: "Tell me what they read about me, tell me exactly, for God's sake. I suppose I'm going to a concentration camp, or on forced labor?" I did not know what to say, and felt very uncomfortable. I stood silent. The lad grew more and more anxious. Finally he began to implore the priest to tell him, his voice rising higher and higher: "Father, tell me the truth. Tell me everything." Stroking the lad on the head the priest said quietly: "We must all be reconciled to the will of God: one sooner, one later."

Only then did the boy realize that he was to die. He began to circle around the cell, clenching his fists and repeating: "I want to live, I want to live." After a time he picked up a prayer-book and began to pray. But then he broke off and again circled around the cell.

We sat about in gloomy silence. No one spoke or talked. I watched the man who within twenty hours was to depart for ever. His eyes began to burn with an indescribable glitter of madness. A little later there was a knock on the door. It was a guard, who opened the door a little way and said: "There's nothing to fear, there isn't a Gestapo man anywhere inside the prison at the moment." Handing me a few sweets and a roll of bread, he whispered: "Give him these." I laid the articles on the table and sat down beside the lad, who helplessly put his head on my shoulder. He put one of the sweets in his mouth and gave me another; heavy tears rolled down his face. "I would so like to see mother again," he said. I kissed him, but something was choking me.

When some hours had passed he again began to wander about from corner to corner. I kept close to him the whole time, but I made no attempt to comfort him. Words were absolutely useless. The priest sat on the floor near us. He whispered quietly to me, in the words of the Psalm: "Quam leo rugiens querit quem devoret." It is a terrible feeling to be so impotent in face of death.

Night came. We did not sleep. The youngster dozed. "Listen", he said to me once, "How many aeroplanes have the British and the other Allies got?" "How do I know?" I answered. "A thousand perhaps, or possibly two." "You're a fool!" he exclaimed, starting up. "Not a thousand, nor five thousand, but ten thousand, a hundred thousand." And he kept repeating the words: "A hundred thousand, a hundred thousand."

Dawn came at last. The prison guard entered, the Gestapo men entered, we drew up in two ranks. The lad was as white as the death as he was shortly to meet. His head hung. A Gestapo man said only one word: "Raus!"

(Outside). The prison guard took the lad by his hand and tried to lead him out.

Suddenly an access of strength came to him: he tore himself away and struggled. The guard held him more and more firmly by the hands, as though in a vice. He resisted with hands and feet and shouted: "I want to live, I want to live." The guard dragged him out, the door was slammed behind him. From the corridor the words still reached us: "I want to live, I want to live."

During my six months in the prison there were seventy death sentences in our cell alone. All kinds of people went to their death, and they behaved in various

ways. But of them all, this first lad made the most terrible impression on me.

Later we grew used to saying farewell to those going to death. We would say to the departing man: "I may be the next after you. You haven't got to hold up for long, it only lasts a moment."

It is strange that the older men were possessed by a greater fear of death than were the youngsters. In many cases the younger men carried themselves proudly and gazed at the Gestapo men with contemptuous smiles. I remember one rich merchant who was sentenced to death because before the war he had been awarded a silver cross for civilian services to Poland. When he knew he was going to die, this man walked about repeating incessantly: "The crosses have been my ruin."

A young student behaved very differently. When the Gestapo men came in he said good-bye to us all, kissing each of us on the face, then turned to us all and said: "I am going for ever, and yet we shall conquer, but you — he turned to the Germans — you will perish."

druck gemacht.

Todes- und Zuchthausurteil

Für Bromberger September-Morde

dnb. Bromberg, 23. 1.

In einer neuerlichen Verhandlung des Bromberger Sondergerichts wurde der 61 Jahre alte Pole Michael Haremta zum Tode und zum Verlust der bürgerlichen Ehrenrechte und die 20jährige Helene Plichinski vom ehemaligen polnischen Theater in Bromberg zu acht Jahren Zuchthaus und sechs Jahren Ehrverlust verurteilt. Beide Angeklagten hatten sich an den Greuelthaten beteiligt, die in den ersten Septembertagen von verhehten Polen an Bromberger Volksdeutschen verübt worden sind.

Sen. Hoch. Allgemeine Zeitung 24/1.

A Pole has been sentenced to death and a Polish girl, aged only 20, has been sent to prison for 8 years.

Old Polish Rugs

RUGS of Polish manufacture existed in the 16th century. Although none of these have come down to us, we know from a 1568 court record that in the province of Mazovia rugs were woven from natural domestic white and black sheepswool.

The earliest Polish rugs in existence today date from the 17th century, when rug-making flourished in south-eastern Poland. In an effort to place rug-making on a level with Italian industry, Stanislaw Koniecpolski, the great hetman and Polish magnate, in 1641 brought Flemish weavers to his estate in Brody and imported raw materials from Spain and Italy. As, however, this experiment proved too costly, the hetman turned to the East for raw materials and to Greece, then under Turkish dominion for weavers. A visitor to the Brody workshops in 1659 wrote of seeing rugs rivalling Persian ones in their beauty.

Products of 17th century Polish workshops influenced as they were by Islam, homeland of the most famous and lavish shorn woolen and silk rugs, may well be included among the priceless art treasures of the world. Indeed, Poland seems to have been the only European country to manufacture imitation Persian rugs in the 17th century.

A typical product of the Koniecpolski workshops from this period is the large rug in the City Museum of Industrial Art in Lwow. The design proper is Persian, but its treatment and the combination of colors differ from the Oriental. Various details point to an European imi-



Radziwill rug (18th c.) in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London

tation of a Persian pattern: the wool is coarser and heavier than that obtained from sheep raised in the warmer and dryer climate of the East, while the dark yellow field and interplay of colors would indicate Arras influence. The ornamentation is softer and better blended than in later rugs, when Armenian influences began to make themselves felt.

Imitation of Eastern patterns — Persian, Turkish, Armenian — constitutes the first phase in the development of Polish rug-making. Thereafter Polish weavers returned to these patterns only sporadically. It is true that the Polish industry adopted from the East the twig and flower and the palmetto motifs. It is also true that Armenian rug-makers, who replaced the Greek weavers in the Brody workshops, introduced the Armenian broken line, the dark or white border, a shredded version of the palmetto motif, shading and grading of colors. However, these borrowed ornaments were so well assimilated, so carefully worked up to harmonize with Polish national

taste, that the individual and original works of art that issued from the Brody works could truly be called Polish in style and ornamentation.

There are numerous interesting examples of these 17th century masterpieces. A rug in the Diecezjalne Museum in Tarnow repeats the motifs of earlier Koniecpolski rugs. But everything in it is simplified, as if folkorized. Blossoms of trees in bloom have turned into geometric squares, while trees are indicated by straight lines, as if drawn by a child's hand.

Clusters of flowers set in baskets are one of the most characteristic and favorite ornamental motifs in 17th and 18th century Poland. They recur in all kinds of Polish art of the period — embroidery, kilims, folk art in general. Although related to the motif of flowers set in a vase, so popular in Persian rugs, this basket of flowers motif is probably of Western origin. The baskets of flowers in Polish rugs are not baroque, but stylized.

A third motif is the Eastern palmetto, variously treated. Curiously enough, the background of the central part is always of untinted, natural wool.

From the second half of the 17th century to the middle of the 18th century, Brody factories made many such rugs. All or two of the motifs just described often appear in the same rug. But no matter what the motif, the rugs have an identical border. This group of rugs, despite occasional primitiveness, show so much real and original feeling for ornamentation, so much harmonious



Oginski rug (18th c.) Collection of the Silesian Museum in Katowice



Rug bearing the Odrowoz coat-of-arms (1698) in the City Museum of Industrial Art in Lwow

composition that they are of special interest to the student of Polish art culture.

A group apart is formed by rugs in which the influence of Western baroque prevailed over conventional ornamentation inspired by the Orient. Probably manufactured in South-eastern Poland, they have the characteristic narrow border of the Brody rugs.

A flourishing example of rug-making in the South-East spurred two of Poland's richest aristocratic families, the Radziwills and the Oginskis, to establish another rug-making center in the North-Eastern part of the country.

Radziwill rug manufactures probably owe their beginning to Anne Sanguszek Radziwill, who died in 1746. In her seat at Biala Podlaska came into being rugs bearing the Radziwill coat-of-arms, the eagle, on a dark yellow smooth field with a border made up of characteristic notched leaves hooked at the end. Typical also of this period, were rugs with a twig-like ornamentation with a

(Please turn to page 12)

Brody rug bearing the Potocki-Mniszek coat-of-arms (1735)
Collection of the National Museum in Cracow

(Continued from page 5)

When of a morning the Gestapo men collected all the Jews in our cell, we knew that a special execution battalion had arrived at the town, and that there were to be collective executions. For the Jews were always taken out to dig the common graves in the Catholic cemetery. When there were only a few executions (what I am now relating was told by the Jews when they returned from their "labors"), the Jews accompanied the prisoners to the place of execution and dug the holes while the battalion was preparing for the final scene. Executions were also carried out with the aid of machine-guns when there were more than thirty to be shot. Then the prisoners were ordered to run, and were swept down by machine-gun fire as they ran.

Usually the condemned were ordered to pull their coats up around their necks, and a large cross or circle was drawn on their left breast with chalk. Rarely did any of them faint, most of them had a calm and contemptuous smile. While waiting to be shot the younger men, or sometimes all of them in chorus, would shout "Long live Poland, long live England!" Then one of the Germans would run forward and fire his revolver right into the face of the shouter. As I said, I had this description of the prisoners' last moments from Jews imprisoned in our cell.

The families of the victims executed in the prison at X immediately found out about their deaths. In some extraordinary fashion the whole town got to know the smallest details of the executions, and the news spread all over enemy-occupied Poland.

The object of the invaders, to terrify the nation, completely failed. On the contrary, the young men and women of Poland are gathering more and more into the struggle with the enemy, more and more people are taking part in the underground resistance, and hatred is rising higher and higher against the nation which must perish.

Because of my professional training and experience with psychological problems, I could not help asking myself continually whether the Gestapo men were some special type of degenerate sadists, developed through many years of criminal activities.

There is no doubt that all the Germans with whom we came into contact in prison had been given special train-



HEINRICH HIMMLER — CHIEF HANGMAN

ing, the essential element of which was blind obedience to orders no matter how monstrous. So when the order is given: "Beat them up!" they beat up; when they are ordered to spit, they spit; or to pour out abuse, they pour out abuse. And when they have punctiliously carried out their orders they return to their everyday affairs.

These guards and jailers are of various ages, types and various milieus. Some are bachelors, others married and fathers of families. From watching their behavior immediately they have finished their criminal tasks, I must state that they behave quite normally. For them the torture of prisoners is just as natural as drinking a mug of beer or a cup of coffee. They are simply ordinary Germans doing their job, ordinary Germans, obedient to the reigning system, which pays them, feeds them, gives them orders.

During several months of nightmare existence in prison I only once saw a Gestapo man who gave me the impression of being an abnormal degenerate. He stood out from the rest. Among the prisoners he had the reputation of being a sadist, but, more curious to relate, he undoubtedly had the same reputation among his "normal" colleagues of the Gestapo, though they were just as much torturers and murderers as he was.

I have experienced the school of a German prison in my own person. I came out cured once for all of the belief that the German jailers and executioners are a specially chosen body of degenerates and sadists. They were simply Germans, the same Germans whom I had known in the days when as a quite young man I had studied in Germany, and later when I had visited that country for scientific purposes from time to time. Normal Germans, obedient to the sound of an order, which transforms them into automata soullessly carrying out the most monstrous crimes.

TO POLISH MOTHERS!

"... We are gathered round this altar in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Westminster on the Feast of Mary Immaculate, to plead with her Divine Son through the sorrows she suffered by the Cross on the Calvary that you may be strengthened in your grievous trials and speedily delivered from the cruel oppression.

"Mary, Mother of Sorrows, Help of Christians, Queen of Peace, intercede for the mothers and children of Poland and protect its people who for ages placed their trust in your patronage."

— His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster

POLISH GLASS AND CEMENT INDUSTRIES

THE glass industry, one of Poland's oldest, had reached a high level of development in free Poland. In 1938 it numbered sixty-nine glassworks, of which thirty-one produced white glass (table, pharmaceutical, and lighting), six window and plate glass, and twenty-seven bottle glass. The industry's aggregate output capacity well exceeded the needs of the domestic market. This large output capacity plus the vast stocks of domestic raw materials augured well for the continued export of Polish glass.

Table and fancy glassware held first place in the total export of glass goods (especially cut-glass products) and accounted for 60 per cent of the export by weight and more than 80 per cent of the total value of glass exports. Apart from cut-glass of the highest quality, the works also exported ware of cheaper grades, as well as unbreakable glass, signal glass, and so on.

Second place was occupied by the export of carboys and demijohns, followed, in point of total value, by glass bulbs for electric lamps, perfume glassware and window-glass. Also exported were roofing glass, plain or striped, in various thicknesses with and without wire-net reinforcement; ornamental and Cathedral glass, white or colored; marble glass; glass bricks and roof-tiles.

Blown-glass Christmas-tree ornaments and glass thread for technical purposes as well as for decorative purposes were another export field. Medical and laboratory glass equipment likewise deserves mention.

Professor Mieczyslaw Kotarbinski of the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts was a pioneer in introducing artistic glassware.

It was he who turned for inspiration to the old Polish glass-blowing industry, creating original, typically Polish bottles.

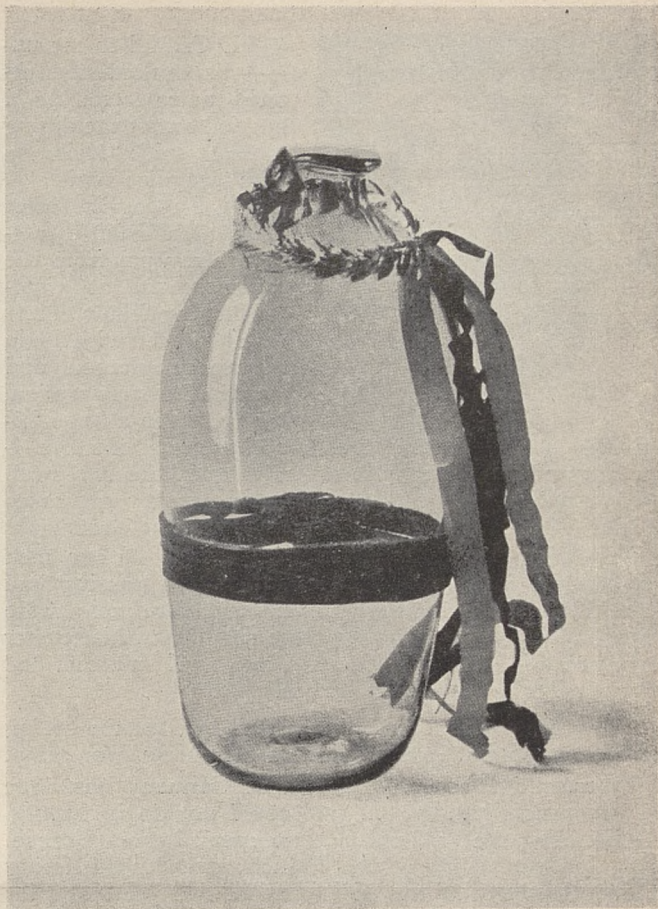
Visitors to the World's Fair held in New York in 1939 were able to admire the glass liqueur sets, toilet sets, vases, bowls and other glassware exhibited by Poland's foremost glassworks: *Niemen*, *Zawiercie*, *Dabrowa*, and *Hortensia*.

Nearly two-thirds of Poland's glass export were directed to Great Britain, Canada and the United States.

Minor buyers of Polish glassware were Palestine, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Australia, and others, including even very distant lands, such as Cuba, Ceylon, Haiti, New Zealand, etc. In all, Polish glass goods reached thirty countries directly and a number of others indirectly.

* * *

Poland's cement industry was also an old-established one, the first cement-works having been founded in 1857. In 1914 there were fifteen such works on Polish soil with an annual output of 600,000 tons of Portland cement. Closely bound up with the development of investment building, this industry continued to make headway after the War and greatly surpassed the pre-War figures of production. In 1938 there were seventeen Portland-cement works in Poland and their output capacity was more than three times the pre-War level.



BOTTLE DESIGNED BY PROF. M. KOTARBINSKI

Apart from standard Portland cement, the chief kind produced, these works also manufactured special cements, such as waterproof Portland cement, quick-hardening clay cement, refractory cement, and acid-resistant cement.

The great possibilities for development presented by the Polish cement works vastly exceeded the home demand and made it possible to place the surplus production abroad. The chief salesmarkets for Polish cement were Norway, Latvia, Eire, the South African Union, Argentina, Brazil and British Malaya.

In 1937 nine-tenths of the refractory cement exported was sold to the United States, Germany and Great Britain.

Polish cement was well-known on world markets, and was considered a first-rate product.

The majority of the cement works in Poland were affiliated with the Association of Portland-Cement Works, which in turn worked in close cooperation with the State Export Institute.

An important private export organization was the Export Office of Cement Manufacturers, which represented six of Poland's largest Portland-cement works: *Goleszowska*, *Solvay*, *Saturn*, *Szczakowa*, *Wolyn*, and *Wysoka*.



Bottles Designed by Prof. M. Kotarbinski

STORY OF AN ESCAPED PRISONER OF WAR

AS TOLD TO JAN ROSTWOROWSKI



HE CAME to me un-announced and utterly unexpected. As I hurried out of the dining room he said: "Hello, do you recognize me?"

Did I recognize him! How could I fail to recognize my pal from the cadet school at Coetquidan, my fellow officer who had been with me in the same platoon and even in the same section.

He had been a huge fel-

low, able to lift a machine gun and base with one arm — an extraordinary specimen of health and humor, a swell buddy willing to substitute for his weaker comrades during physical examination. His name was Bronek.

Following the French campaign, many of our men were never heard of again. Among those missing had been Bronek, who was now standing before me, a wide grin on his face. He was a mere shadow of his former self, but this shadow, emaciated and as if subdued, had managed to reach Great Britain.

"You know," he casually informed me, "in the spring of 1942 I escaped from a German prisoner-of-war camp.

"I crossed Alsace. Curious that Germany has done in one year what French rule could not do in twenty. Today even those Alsations who speak broken French, long for the return of the French; even those fleeing Polish prisoners of war had to avoid two years ago for fear of denunciation now help the Poles to escape."

Bronek spoke with reluctance of life in a prisoner-of-war camp. He mentioned the constant hunger, mental depression and unswerving faith in Allied victory. The prisoner is served 4½ ounces of bitter, sticky army bread daily. This bread is made from chestnuts, and potatoes with a small amount of wheat flour added. Breakfast consists of a brew made from birch-bark that passes for tea and a bit of beet "jam". The noonday meal is soup, repeated at supper time. This with at least 10 hours of hard work every day.

"And yet," Bronek went on. "it is easier to live in a prisoner-of-war camp today than it was a year ago. For, although the food situation is getting steadily worse, the Germans have become humbler. In the beginning, especially in the first months after the French debacle, and during the air offensive over Great Britain, every soldier, every boy, every peasant woman was sure of the Third Reich's victory and believed Hitler's promise that the war would end in 1941. People even tried to get tickets for the victory parade in London. Meanwhile, instead of victory came the Russian war.

"We prisoners knew this war would come. Hope entered our hearts when Great Britain did not capitulate, when she beat back the first furious onslaughts of German aviation. A brighter tomorrow dawned after the start of the Balkan campaign. The defeat of Yugoslavia and Greece was a hard blow, but it was softened by rumors of great army concentrations in the East, of approaching war with Russia. The Poles had often foretold this war to their German keepers, but they invariably received the jeering reply that Hitler signed a pact with Stalin, that since Germany gave Russia half of Poland, the Baltic countries, Bessarabia, and part of Finland, Russia

would never fight with Germany, that the Bolsheviks were good comrades, etc.

"And then, all of a sudden, at morning roll call on June 22, 1941, we noticed a strange excitement among the jailers. Some one asked a sergeant; he shrugged his shoulders, walked away a few steps, then looked around, came back and spat out: 'You were right, we are at war with Russia.' That was a red letter day. Our best day in prison. The commander of the camp ordered an extraordinary assembly at which he declared that although the Poles had sinned heavily against Germany, the moment had come for all nations of European culture, victors as well as defeated, to unite and take part in the holy anti-Bolshevik crusade. He did not have a chance to finish. Peals of laughter answered him: 'Listen to that, they are looking for comrades!' And they found none.

"A few days later, the German newspaper THE ILLUSTRATED GAZETTE published for the prisoners in Polish, launched its campaign: 'Join the German army. By fighting the Bolsheviks you will redeem your sins and regain your freedom!' These articles were followed by others from which the amazed prisoners of war learned that they belonged to a great and valiant nation with fine traditions, a splendid history and rich culture, and that they could show they were ready for independence if they would only join the Pan-European crusade. 'There are only two European nations', wrote the ILLUSTRATED GAZETTE, 'conspicuous by their absence in this holy war: The English and the Poles. We are not surprised at the English and will not write about them. But your absence, Poles, is inconsistent with all your heroic traditions of an age-old bastion of Christian civilization in the East.'

"Needless to say the prisoners remained deaf to these appeals.

"With classic perfidy this newssheet sought to drive a wedge between the Poles and the French — Poland and France. The Germans know that in the event of a German defeat, future Polish-French cooperation may constitute a powerful barrier to their imperialistic ambitions. So the ILLUSTRATED GAZETTE published one lengthy article after another, accusing France of having driven Poland into war, of promising aid which she did not send, of failure to establish a second front in the West, of having betrayed Poland by capitulating.

"At the same time, another paper (printed in French for French prisoners of war) also published by the Wilhelmstrasse, incited them against us, declaring that Poland started the war, that if France was humiliated today and so many of her sons in prison camps, it was because she wanted to fight for Danzig, that Poland was militarily too weak to be of any use as an ally. We translated the Polish articles to our French comrades and they reciprocated by translating the French articles to us. Laughter, so rare in monotonous camp life, was the only fruit of German propaganda.

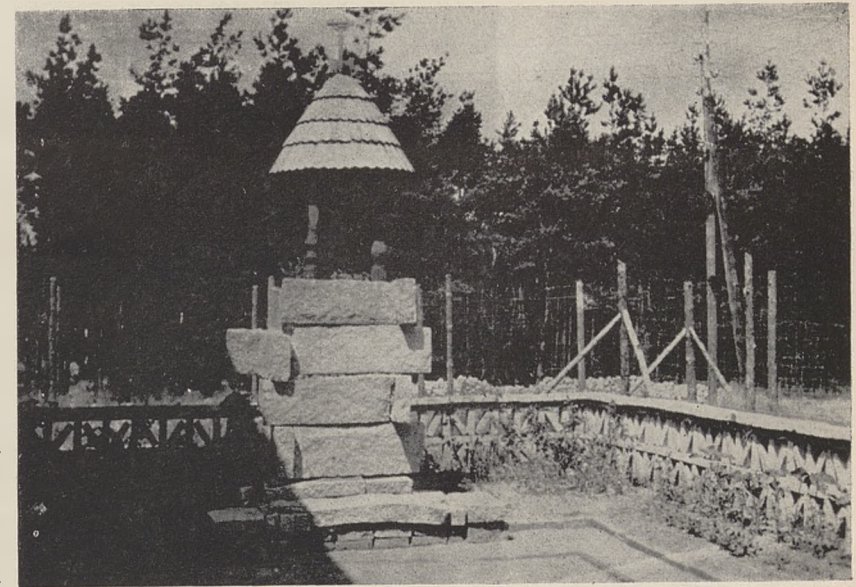
"The first news of the outbreak of war in the East caused anxiety among the German people; this was especially marked among the older generation who remembered the Russians from the previous war. The initial German successes coupled with the rapid advance of panzer divisions and the unusual intensity of German propaganda, reassured public opinion and strengthened its hope that the Soviet colossus would disintegrate under the blows of German armed forces. At first the war in the East was to last six weeks. The time limit was later extended to three months. Then it was categori-

cally stated that it would end before winter. Finally the announcement was made that the German forces would take over Moscow and the Caucasus leaving to General Winter the task of killing the remnants of the Soviet army. Meanwhile the war did not end. Moscow fought back. The Caucasus did not fall and winter began to fritter away the might of the Third Reich.

"In the first months of war many Soviet prisoners were brought into Germany. Probably owing to a scarcity of suitable camps, they were placed with us. We were jammed, 80 into one barrack. But these Russians were odd prisoners. Dirty and ragged, they did not look resigned or convinced of the unavoidable defeat of their country. They hated the Germans with their whole soul. They hated them for their treacherous attack, for shattering their normal mode of life. They hated them for the misery of their prisoners' existence, for having torn them from their dear ones. The commander of the camp set them to work. They refused. Soon after, we were separated.

"The first batches of Soviet prisoners, eagerly welcomed by the German population as confirmation of official communiques, were followed by trainloads of German wounded. In the beginning these were sent to the Government General and to Czechoslovakia, so as not to lower German morale. But when the hospitals there proved too small, the wounded streamed into Germany bringing with them a true picture of the Eastern front, of open snow-bound spaces, of the frightful ordeal of the forward marches, ever forward with no possibility of decisive victory, of staggering losses in men, of tanks bogging down in autumn mud, finally of winter and impossible cold. The Reich was suddenly swarming with young invalids depressed, sad, apathetic; it was hard to believe these were the same people who six months' previously had left for the Eastern front, full of enthusiasm and singing 'Die Fahne hoch!'

"I don't know how great German losses in the winter campaign in the East were, but I can vouch for their moral effect. The Russian winter campaign killed war enthusiasm in the Reich. This change of mood had its effect upon our camp life. One day a special medical committee came down to examine German non-commissioned officers. The rumor soon spread that the healthier people were to go to the Eastern front. Then came a second committee. The rumor grew into complete certainty, and suddenly these non-coms, hitherto the most haughty, the greatest sadists, the basest of men, became human, began to talk to us when no one was looking and even began to complain. We suddenly learned that this sergeant had a wife and young children, that this corporal's health had been ruined by the last war and that he had lost all desire and strength to shed his blood for an unknown cause. Suddenly these sadists, devoid of all human emotions, turned out to be ordinary, human beings. When they heard that they were to be sent to the front, to face the freezing cold and Soviet guns, they began to crack. In the end they went. Their posts in the



SHRINE BUILT BY POLISH PRISONERS OF WAR IN A GERMAN CAMP

camp were taken over by disabled veterans from the previous war, often minus an arm or with paralysis of a leg. Germany's manpower was clearly dwindling.

"The winter of 1941 was a cold one. The Reich launched its fur collection campaign with all the propaganda and administrative pressure it could muster, but the furs collected did not anywhere near satisfy the needs of the army. People froze. The drain of the Russian war on the Germans left its mark on our prisoner-of-war camp. Even ordinary German soldiers were sent to the Eastern front. It was then that a *gefreiter* came up to a few Poles and surprised them with a suggestion:

"'You know how it's done — escaping abroad. I'll get civilian clothes for you and we can all run away together'. And they did! I don't know what became of them.

"Such proposals were by no means rare. I learned since that they were not confined to my camp. German fear of the Eastern front is so great that many go to pieces and desert when faced with being sent there. I was told that when in February of this year a regiment quartered in a French town received orders to go to the Eastern front, a mutiny broke out in which many officers took part. It was suppressed with much bloodshed. I also know of a case where two officers deserted when told they would have to go to the Eastern front. They donned civilian clothes and disappeared. A careful observer of life in Germany can see that their infernal war machine is beginning to crack up. Their best technicians can do nothing to arrest this irretrievable process.

"One should not, of course, count too heavily on these signs. The German army is still excellent 'en masse' and it will not be an easy matter to knock it out. But the nerves of the German people are already badly frayed."

Old Polish Rugs

(Continued from page 7)

bouquet of flowers in the center, stylized in the Western manner.

Michael Kazimierz Radziwill moved the rug making establishment from Biala to Polonny, Boracin and Korelicz. New ornamental patterns came to life, and old motifs were stylized in the spirit of Western rococo and Louis XVI. Radziwill manufactures are all characterized by the common motif of a leaf viewed from the side, originating in the North-western provinces of Persia and transformed in ornamentation by Armenian influences. One of the most representative of the Radziwill rugs is that in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, its ornamentation developing in long vertical stripes, repeating the motif of baskets of flowers as well as clusters of ostrich feathers tied with ribbon.

The final group consists of rugs of Oginski manufacture. Their design resembles the patterns of Eastern rugs, with simplified and geometric individual motifs.

Their composition is less compact, made up of various unrelated shapes, strewn over the entire field and treated almost grotesquely. The field is often blue, while various shades of yellow predominate in the flower ornamentation. Some of these rugs may be identified only by the Oginski coat-of-arms, the gate. A rug in the Silesian Museum at Katowice bearing this crest shows predominating Chinese motifs. Thus, the Oginski coat-of-arms acquires value as an independent motif along with Persian and Turkish patterns.

Similar to the Oginski rugs is the enormous rug, privately owned, which has a distorted coat-of-arms of Western type, as well as miniature figures dressed in red, with axes in their hand, poised to strike a lion. The Industrial Museum in Krakow had a rug from 1752 with a uniform, more geometric design, which by its motif of hooked leaves, and its native version of the Eastern palmetto, resembles the Radziwill type of rug.

Ornamentation in Polish woolen rugs is a compromise between Western fondness for plant and animal designs and Eastern love of linear and geometric patterns. Thus, instead of abstract geometric rhombs, stars, and triangles, and instead of the shapes taken from nature, Polish rugs feature plant motifs in a linear arrangement. The Polish treatment is often geometric, but the original image is not lost.

Summing up, the Polish style of ornamentation is most in evidence in rugs of Brody manufacture, presenting a happy blending of Eastern and Western motifs: specifically the Eastern palmetto and the Western baskets of flowers. Radziwill rugs show a trend to Western European forms and sumptuousness. Oginski rugs are typified by grotesque ornamentation and the use of motifs adopted from the Far East. Many old Polish rugs have



Rug bearing the Juraha coat-of-arms in the Cracow Industrial Museum

found their way into private art collections all over the world. Those that did remain in Poland were therefore treasured all the more. At the World's Fair in New York in 1939 there was on display in the Polish Pavilion a beautiful shorn wool carpet from the Grodno factory of Count Tyzenhaus woven in 1789, the year of the signing of the American Constitution.

WARSAW TAKES TIME OFF TO LAUGH!

EARLY in 1942, the German authorities plastered Warsaw with huge yellow posters, headed "The Fuehrer said . . ." and giving quotations from recent Hitler speeches on the victorious march of the German army in the East, German air victories over Russia, England, etc. The Germans guarded these posters closely and meted out severe punishment to any one attempting to deface or tear them down.

One day the walls of Warsaw were covered with new posters, just like the German ones. They, too, began with "The Fuehrer said . . ." but the similarity ended there, for what followed was a clever and malicious compilation of expertly chosen quotations from Hitler's speeches highlighting his unfulfilled promises to defeat England

and Russia before the winter of 1941, to end the war before Christmas of 1941, etc. Crowds of Poles soon gathered before these reverse propaganda posters and the streets of Warsaw filled with laughter.

Surprised by the unusual Polish interest in their posters, the Gestapo stationed men at strategic points to prevent any injury to them. Their fears were groundless, this time the Poles were willing to leave the posters intact.

For a whole day, Warsaw read the revised edition of what "The Fuehrer said". It was not till late in the evening that the Germans discovered that they had been duped. Glowering Gestapo men began feverishly tearing down the posters they had been guarding with such care ever since they were put up!